

The Brethren Evangelist,

ASHLAND, OHIO.

A. D. GNAGEY, EDITOR.

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SALUTATORY.

In assuming the editorial management of the BRETHREN EVANGELIST, we are not unmindful of the new duties and responsibilities these new relations bring with them and impose upon us. We enter upon the duties of the office fully conscious of their gravity and sacredness, and of the tremendous responsibilities accompanying them in the new field of labor to which we have been called.

We also realize, as we begin the work, in all its fullness, the fact, that in common with those whose interests we hope to serve, we belong to the same race of men who for 6000 years have erred in their ways. We cannot hope therefore to be an exception in this one particular, and succeed without erring in the discharge of our duties. This however we promise our readers, that so far as in us lies, we shall strive earnestly to serve the interests dear to all of us—the cause of Christ—which as we believe, finds its highest expression, in the organization known as the BRETHREN CHURCH.

The change of environments in our new field of labor and in the nature of the work upon which we have entered, may require us some time to become accustomed to the new order of things. Having spent fourteen years in a quiet town among the hills of Pennsylvania, where the atmosphere is bracing, the breezes invigorating, where the pure clear sand spring water flows freely, and the shaded streams ripple down the mountain side; associated with a people who, during a long pastorate, have nobly stood by us, held up our hands, encouraged us, helped us, given us wise counsel, the influence of whose presence has been an inspiration to us, the relations as near and dear as that of our own kin and kindred; a people whom we will always remember; whose children, grown into boys and girls, young men and women, during the period of our ministry among them, will forever find a place in our memory, and their kindnesses and helpfulness, remain among the pleasant

and happy recollections during all the years of our future labors. To break away from these associations was by no means an easy thing to do, and those of our readers who were present at the Conference will remember that it was not until after the most serious considerations that we consented to assume the duties and responsibilities the Conference voted upon us, and even then the incumbency was accepted with reluctance. Having taken upon ourselves the duties of the EVANGELIST office, we begin our labors with a degree of confidence, for while we cannot *command* success, surely we have ground to *hope* for it. We trust that it will be within the limits of modesty and becoming humility, if we claim that the years spent in our former field of labor and the associations above referred to, have gradually tended toward a degree of fitness for the new relations which we have now assumed.

We do not enter upon our work with the hope of pleasing every one who reads this paper and seemingly has an interest in the Master's cause. Men are differently constituted. They do not see things alike; and while we may have in view the same end and mean to accomplish the same thing, *how* the end is to be attained, the *methods* to be employed in the accomplishment of the desired end—on these there prevail great differences of opinion. The advancement of the Master's kingdom on earth is the end for which we are laboring. On this point there is no controversy. But as to the best methods to be used in gaining the end sought—on these we may not all be united. It is impossible, therefore, that in the multiplicity of ideas which prevail as to *how* God's work is to be prosecuted, we should be able to please everybody.

We have never for a moment entertained the thought that it was possible to edit a church paper which, in all its departments, would meet the approval of all. *It will be our aim to do the right thing in the right way.* To this end we shall bend our energies; to this end we ask your help and your prayers.

In our judgment it is not the province of a paper, claiming to stand for morality and religion, to furnish its readers that which is calculated merely to please and entertain, but rather that which will *instruct* people, help them in their efforts and struggles to

lead a better, nobler and purer life. We must distinguish between that which people *want* and that which they *need*. What they *want* is not always what they *need*. Christianity does not claim to supply every *want* of man. It *does* claim to meet every *need* of humanity, and the greatest need of the world is Jesus Christ and his Gospel. The restlessness in the social world is but an evidence that humanity needs more of *Christ*—the larger Christ who stands before a world of sin and helplessness, and declares himself the Great Physician, the Healer of all the ills of mankind. To make known this Christ among men, to give the world more of this larger, blessed Jesus, and the eternal principles of his Gospel, is the *purpose*, the *end* and *aim* of the paper whose management has been committed to our care.

The BRETHREN EVANGELIST will continue an earnest advocate of the faith once delivered to the saints. "It is set for the defense of the Gospel," an uncompromising foe of sin in all the various forms in which it manifests itself. It will labor incessantly for the overthrow of evil and the establishment of virtue, purity and holiness among men. It believes thoroughly in the Gospel alone doctrine of the Brethren church, the principles of primitive christianity, the all sufficiency of Christ in his atoning work for lost sinners. And while the principles and truths of the Gospel are eternal and immutable, the application of these principles change with the ever varying conditions of humanity.

So far as it lies within our power, the paper shall be a *teacher*, an *educator*, a *leader* of the people; reflect the best religious thought of the church, lead its readers to *think*, arouse them to *activity*, stimulate them to greater and nobler efforts in the advancement of the Master's cause. That these ends may be attained we ask the co-operation of every member of the church; your prayers that we may be guided by the Holy Spirit of God in the prosecution of the work herein outlined; your contributions that will help to make the paper what it ought to be; your *subscriptions*, without which all other efforts must fail. With best wishes for all our readers, a prayer for the cause of the Master whom we love, the God whose we are and whom we serve, we subscribe ourselves as co-laborers with you in the great field of humanity.